

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 92-1
of the
Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council
held
Friday, January 17, 1992

Present: Professors M.N.S. Swamy (Chair), M.O. Ahmad, V.S. Alagar, B. Ashtakala, C. Bédard, A. Elhakeem, T. Fancott, P.P. Fazio, D. Feldman, F.D. Hamblin, H.J. McQueen, J. Opatrny, M.O.M. Osman, O.A. Pekau, R.V. Patel, R. Shinghal, T. Stathopoulos, K. Thulasiraman, G.H. Vatistas, P.D. Ziogas; T. Swift (Registrar's Rep.); Z. Jirkovsky (Library); Anna Tam (ECSGA); P.M. Bourassa (Secretary).

Absent with
apology: Profs. A.E. Black, A.M. Hanna, B. MacKay.

Visitors: Mr. Craig Brown; Profs. V. Fabrikant, J. McKay, O. Moselhi, A. Ramamurthy.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 92-1-1 Council unanimously approved the published agenda.

2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 91-6

Motion 91-1-2 Council unanimously adopted a motion to approve the minutes of Meeting 91-7.

3. Chair's Remarks

Dr. Swamy first expressed his best wishes for the New Year to all those present.

He then announced that Dr. W.G. Habashi has been appointed Industrial Relations Director of CERCA (Centre de recherche en calcul appliqué) which is to receive a grant of \$12.4 million over 6 years from the Quebec government. This centre will group four university-level institutions (University of Montreal, McGill, Concordia and Polytechnique) and five major industrial firms with operations in Quebec. Congratulations were extended to Dr. Habashi.

4. Procedures Regarding Faculty Elections

The Chair informed Council that two motions regarding Faculty elections have been received from the Department of Computer Science (Doc. ECFC 92-1-1). In view of this, he requested Dr. O. Mosehli, who chairs the Tenure Elections Committee, to make a presentation on existing procedures, which have been used for at least 7 to 8 years.

Dr. Mosehli outlined the election procedures as follows:

1. All elections in the Faculty shall be supervised by the Tenure Elections Committee which is elected by the Faculty Council.
2. Elections shall be held when the number of candidates exceeds the number of positions to be filled.
3. Voting:
 - a) Voting shall be by secret ballot, and the number of candidates to be voted for is stated on the ballot.
 - b) The names of candidates which have been submitted in accordance with all of the nomination procedures shall be inscribed on the ballot in alphabetical order.
 - c) The ballots shall be distributed by mail or by hand to all full-time faculty members who are neither on sabbatical nor on leave without pay when the elections are conducted.
 - d) Any candidate receiving more than 50% of the ballots cast (i.e., a majority vote) shall be declared elected.
 - e) Following the first ballot, if the number of remaining candidates exceeds by more than one the number of vacancies remaining to be filled, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the ballot in the next round of voting.
 - f) The same procedure is used for subsequent ballots.

He added that these procedures have been followed over several years and have been published in response to an inquiry by Dr. John McKay.

Dr. McKay said that he asked for these regulations on November 4, 1991 and raised two questions on November 6. This matter was then discussed at a meeting of the Department of Computer Science held on December 6. He added that other Faculties have a different system. His objections to the present procedures in this Faculty are that there are privileged voters (the members of the committee who count the ballots and do not advise of the ballot count before subsequent ballots) and that the time of closing is not indicated on the ballots.

Dr. Moselhi answered that the elections committee has no objections to stating the closing time on the ballot. Up to now, it has been assumed that it is the end of a normal working day, and this does not appear to have created difficulties. As for the question of privileged voters, there are only two persons involved in ballot counting (Dr. Hanna, being a candidate, withdrew from the elections committee for this particular election) out of more than 100 faculty members eligible to vote. Concerning the statement on the ballot on the number of candidates to be voted for, the same wording had been used for a number of years. However, the elections committee agreed that it could be clarified and this was done after the first ballot.

Dr. Opatrny said that, at the CSD meeting, a significant number expressed the feeling that the statement on the ballot was misleading. Dr. Moselhi answered that if some persons were in doubt, they could have asked a member of the committee and the meaning would have been clarified.

Dr. Fancott pointed out that the ballots for IEEE elections have the same wording that has been used by the Faculty through the years.

Dr. Alagar said that this question was thoroughly debated at a meeting of the Computer Science Department. Personally, he has seen the words "Vote for X candidates" on the ballots ever since he joined this University. He added that this question should be looked at in a positive fashion and that, for this purpose, he would like to propose the following motion.

Motion
92-1-3

This Council resolves that the Tenure Elections Committee be mandated to review elections procedures in this Faculty and other units of the University and to receive proposals by faculty members of this Faculty and come back with a set of proposals for discussion and adoption by Faculty Council at its March 1992 meeting.

There was some discussion, and the question was called. The vote on calling the question was 19 in favour, none opposed and one abstention. The vote on Motion 92-1-3 was unanimously in favour.

Dr. McKay then said that he raised the question of election procedures with Dr. Astakala a long time back when the latter was a member of the elections committee. He would not want the present situation to continue and this is why he raised it again. He has made a formal complaint regarding the recent elections of members recommended for the Advisory Search Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. However, he is now prepared to withdraw that complaint. He added that these are issues that are very serious but he believes that, with the measures just adopted by Council, these problems will be sorted out.

Dr. Swamy said, for the record that he called the Secretary of Senate five years ago and suggested that all elections for such advisory committees be made through the Secretary's office. This year, the Dean said that he has brought the matter once again to the attention of the Secretary of the Senate.

Copies of the Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Academic Units and of a communiqué announcing the Audit of Program Review Processes by CREPUQ (Conférence des Recteurs et Principaux des universités du Québec) were handed out to those present.

5. Adjournment

Motion 92-1-4 Council unanimously adopted a motion to adjourn.